

MEETING OF MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of Middlesbrough Council, lawfully convened, and held in the Town Hall, Middlesbrough on 30 November 2016.

PRESENT: Councillors S E Bloundele (Chair), R Brady (Vice Chair), R Arundale, S Biswas, J Blyth, D J Branson, J Brunton, Mr D Budd, M Carr, J G Cole, D P Coupe, P Cox, D Davison, S Dean, E Dryden, J Goodchild, T Harvey, A Hellaoui, T Higgins, C Hobson, J Hobson, B A Hubbard, T Lawton, L Lewis, T Mawston, D McCabe, J McGee, L McGloin, G Purvis, P Purvis, J Rathmell, D Rooney, J Rostron, M Saunders, M Storey, B E Taylor, M Thompson, Z Uddin, J A Walker, N J Walker, M Walters and L Young

OFFICERS: M Allinson, J Bromiley, B Carr, K Flynn, L Henman, A Hoy, J Lewis. E Ioannides, A Pain, K Parkes, T Parkinson, B Roberts, E Scollay, T Whitehead and I Wright.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were submitted on behalf of Councillors Councillor N Hussain, Councillor F McIntyre, Councillor J McTigue, Councillor C M Rooney, Councillor J Sharrocks.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this point of the meeting.

16/47 MINUTES - COUNCIL - 19 OCTOBER 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2016 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

16/48 ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair reported with sadness the death of former Councillor, Eleanor Lancaster.

All present stood in silence as a mark of respect.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Matthew Storey to his first meeting of the Council, following his recent election as Councillor for the Central Ward.

The Chair announced that as a result of the disruption at previous meetings of the Council, new procedures had been introduced.

He advised that it was important that everyone understood the role of a Councillor in relation to the Council meeting, which was to consider reports and take part in the proceedings of the meeting. The public were allowed to listen to the debate, but were not allowed to call out or disrupt the meeting. The Chair advised that anyone that interrupted the meeting would be issued with a warning. If they proceeded to interrupt the meeting again, they would be asked to leave.

The Chair requested the Members of the Council to debate with vigour, but with respect. Any language that would not be allowed in a question or a motion would not be allowed.

16/49 PETITION

The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport, on behalf of the Council received a petition from Councillor Rathmell seeking assurances that the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum be removed from the table during consideration of the review of all the town's museum and cultural facilities.

The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport acknowledged receipt of the petition.

It was moved, seconded and **ORDERED** that the petition be received, noted and forwarded for consideration.

16/50 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor responded to the question from J Elder.

The Mayor advised that the amount of Council Tax paid did not have any bearing on the viability of residents parking schemes. Residents parking schemes were directly related to specific traffic and parking issues in the area. The parking schemes based in the town centre, JCUH and the university area had been established to encourage commuters, visitors, shoppers and students to use available car parks rather than parking in residential streets. The use of residents parking schemes would not be appropriate in places where vehicles would be displaced from one street to another.

The Council had to consider the likely effect of residents parking schemes on the local economy to accommodate churches or local businesses etc. A major new car park had been provided at JCUH for workers and visitors in conjunction with the NHS and it was envisaged that this would alleviate some of the parking issues associated with the hospital.

In the absence of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Regeneration, the Chair read out a written response to the question from E Martinez.

"I thank Ms Martinez for her question. I will ensure local residents, the public and business in the town are fully consulted on proposals for office development to the east of Centre Square when they are available. All environmental, ecological and habitat implications will be considered as part of the planning process."

16/51 MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT

The Mayor provided Members with an update in respect of Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA).

All five of the Tees Valley authorities had approved the order to create powers for a Tees Valley Mayor. There had been a slight delay, however when the Government passed the appropriate order through Parliament, the TVCA would meet to agree the order. The Government and the Civil Service had exhibited a great deal of confidence in the ability of the TVCA to deliver on the Strategic Economic Plan.

In the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, a promise of some funding had been made and suggestions that further funding may be made available. In all, 12 transport schemes had been announced and two of the schemes were based in the Tees Valley area.

The funding would be used towards:

- developing a business case to establish a Tees Crossing
- improvements to the East/West links through Teesport to Darlington
- A66 to be duelled from Scotch Corner over the Pennines and study to see how A66 could be improved.

The Mayor stated that the bids had been successful because they came from a credible organisation that worked with business together with the fact that there was a strong economic argument for the proposals.

The Mayor advised that the Middlesbrough Investment Prospectus had recently been launched. It had taken a lot of hard work to produce the document, however the result was a succinct, to the point publication which was based on economic reality. The proposals contained within the document would be delivered in the next few years.

It was important that the Council had the confidence of a number of organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, developers and builders. Confirmation had recently been received of a four year budget settlement which provided the Council with the opportunity to plan for the next four years. The Mayor emphasised that the Council should be

defined by what it could do and what it could deliver.

The Council aimed to deliver:

- 5000 jobs;
- 5,500 new homes
- business development and regeneration

The Council had allocated £68 million over the next four years to enable delivery of some of the major schemes. It was hoping to gain investment leverage of up to approximately £600m.

The Middlesbrough Investment Prospectus set out details of seven different schemes which would be used to secure investment from private developers, TVCA and the Government:

- Middlehaven e.g. creation of Snow Centre; developments around the Football club
- Commercial and Cultural District e.g. restoration of Town Hall and Centre Square regeneration;
- Business and Enterprise e.g. Hemlington Grange Business Park and Teesside Advanced Manufacturing Park (TAMP);
- Middlesbrough Railway Station and Historic Quarter, including the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum - a contractor had been appointed and was due to commence the renovation of the railway station;
- University Quarter - new student village and improvements along Linthorpe Road;
- Teesside Media and Innovation Village involving relocation of bus station and new campus for Cleveland College of Art and Design, possible erection of new 4* hotel;
- Growth and Prosperity through housing - the Council had record house building figures for the previous two years. Work was ongoing in Grove Hill and Gresham.

The Mayor advised that the Middlesbrough Investment Prospectus was aligned with the Tees Valley Strategic Economic Plan and would contribute to its target to deliver 25,000 new jobs. All of the projects above were interdependent.

A Member queried with regard to the £68m investment, how much was Middlesbrough Council's money. The Mayor advised that it was funding that the Council had already secured from borrowing and sales and the information was contained in a report included later in the agenda.

16/52

DEPUTY MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS

The Chair invited Members to raise items for general discussion arising from the Information Booklet of Executive Member reports (previously circulated) which detailed activities carried out within the respective Executive Member portfolios (Section 1), Executive decisions taken (Section 2) or to be taken where known, prior to and following the meeting (Sections 3 and 4).

Members commented and posed questions in relation to the following matters and Executive Members responded where appropriate:-

a) Grammar Schools

A member commented about the Education Bill and the issue of grammar schools and commented that, at some point the local authority would be required to respond to the Government on this issue. The member stated that he hoped that the response would be that the authority did not want any grammar schools in Middlesbrough.

The Executive Member for Education and Skills advised that the response would be that the local authority did not want any more grammar schools in Middlesbrough. The authority wanted a high quality inclusive system of education for every child in Middlesbrough, based upon best practice and proven outcomes.

b) Middlesbrough Bus Station - Quiet Room.

A member commented that in the Executive Member for Environment's report, it stated that the bus station, due to the high number of people using local transport, and its central location within the town, making it accessible for all, had been identified as a key location for the provision of a Quiet Room within the town centre. The member queried why the Council was disposing of the bus station as the bus station was an excellent facility and was used by those shoppers who chose not to shop online. He stated that he had concerns with regard to those people coming into town to shop and he queried where the new bus station would be located.

The Executive Member for Environment advised that the bus station was an ideal location for a quiet room for vulnerable people because of the footfall and its location.

The Mayor advised that there would still be a bus station in Middlesbrough, although it would be in a different location.

c) Council Purchasing Cards

A Member queried if there was currently a reconciliation interface that balanced the expenditure with the stock delivered, distributed, used and the stock remaining in the stores in respect of the use of Council purchasing cards?

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance advised that there were appropriate checks and accountancy procedures in place and the Executive Member would provide the actual detail if required.

As a supplementary question, the member queried whether the previous issues with regard to the integrity of the Agresso system, which had been the subject of a complaint by the member, and had been referred to at a recent meeting of the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee, had been remedied.

The Chair advised that any supplementary question should relate to the answer to the substantive question but on this occasion he would allow the question.

The Executive Member stated that she was pleased that the member had contacted the auditors to raise the concerns he had with regard to the operation of Agresso. The Executive Member advised that it was her understanding that the auditors had agreed to meet with the member concerned to discuss his concerns and she urged the member to take up the opportunity to meet with the auditors.

d) New Council Website

A Member queried with regard to the new Council website, whether new registrations automatically linked up to the council tax collection system so that officers could view if there was any outstanding council tax to be collected from the address of the new customer?

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance queried whether the member was asking if when somebody received a report for missed bin collection, would that information be used to identify if a person had not paid Council Tax, as this question had been raised at a recent Members Briefing on the subject. The answer to the question was that the information would not be used as there was no link between the two systems.

As a supplementary question, the member referred to the 49% increase in new user accounts per week since the website had gone live and asked if the Executive Member could clarify the information provided in her report with regard to this issue.

The Chair advised that he could not make any correlation between the member's substantive question and the supplementary question, and as a consequence he requested that members proceed to the next agenda item.

Council received and considered a report presented by the Vice-Chair of the Overview and

Scrutiny Board outlining the work of the Board and Scrutiny Panels.

NOTED

16/54

STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 - 2020 - FIRST REFRESH

The Mayor presented a report which refreshed the Council's Strategic Plan for 2016-20 (approved by Council in July 2016), including its Medium-Term Financial Plan and Investment Strategy for the same period, and outlined proposed transformation and savings initiatives for this period, which would inform the 2017/18 budget and those of future years, attached at Appendices A - C.

The Mayor highlighted how important Council Tax and Business Rates were as Government funding reduced.

The reported stated that the Strategic Plan was the Council's overarching business plan and formed part of the Policy Framework. The plan set out the Council's approach to meeting the savings targets identified in the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

The Mayor advised that the budget would be looked at in March next year and there would be opportunities to consider it in a number of briefings and seminars.

The Mayor advised that the Strategic Plan was a four year plan which focused on investment, growth and efficiency, incorporating a Medium-Term Financial Plan and Investment Strategy for the same period.

ORDERED as follows:

1. That the Council's successful submission for a multi-year funding settlement from DCLG, and the resulting revised Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) position for the period to 2019/20 be noted.
2. That the first refresh of the Strategic Plan 2016-20 (at Appendix D), as the means of meeting with savings targets identified within the MTFP, and notes proposed savings initiatives for 2017/18 and beyond identified in Appendices A-C be approved.
3. That it be noted that a further report would be presented to Council in March 2017 that would again refresh the MTFP following the Local Government Finance Settlement, set the 2017/18 budget, and confirm further initiatives to future address savings targets within an updated medium-term Strategic Plan document.

16/55

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT 2017/2018

The Strategic Director for Finance, Governance and Support submitted a report, the purpose of which was to approve the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme for 2017/2018.

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance presented the report,

On 9 January 2013, Council approved the local CTS scheme for 2013/2014 following a public consultation exercise and an options appraisal as to how the local scheme could operate.

The local CTS commenced on 1 April 2013 and replaced the previous national Council Tax Benefit (CTB) scheme. The current scheme required working age claimants to pay at least 20% of their Council Tax. Older persons in receipt of a state pension were protected from any reduction under national regulations.

All Councils were required to set a CTS scheme each year and there were no significant changes to the existing scheme for 2017/2018.

In order to reflect the level of disadvantage in the Middlesbrough community it was proposed that the CTS should continue to reflect the following protections;

(i) that the family premium be retained at the current rate in the 2017/2018 scheme to protect families and ensure they were not disadvantaged by reducing their applicable amount (which related to their individual circumstances).

(ii) the existing 6 month timeframe for working age claimants to ask for backdated CTS to be considered was retained (as opposed to reducing this to 1 month in line with amendments made to Housing Benefit regulations).

(iii) The Hardship Fund was promoted further with increased publicity, with the aim to increase the take up of those most in need of support.

The Executive Member advised that the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme had to be agreed each year. What was different this year was the promotion of the Hardship Fund. It had been put in place to help those most financially affected, many who would be affected by the requirement to pay 20% of the Council Tax where they had not been required to pay anything towards their Council Tax before and those affected by the bedroom tax and other benefit cuts

The Executive Member advised that there had not been as great a take up of the Hardship Fund as anticipated and steps had been taken to promote the Fund through recovery letters etc.

A member stated that he wished to congratulate the Council on the large no of houses it had built over the last few years and queried what the impact would be in terms of Council Tax collection. The Executive Member advised that the impact was an increase in Council Tax base collection in respect of the next year of £1.08m and over the next three years, £4m.

ORDERED as follows:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/18 be approved.

16/56 **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no Urgent Items.

16/57 **NOTICE OF URGENT MOTION**

There were no Urgent Motions.

16/58 **NOTICE OF MOTION 122 - SALES OR LEASES OF MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL ASSETS**

Consideration was given to the following motion, moved by Councillor Lawton and seconded by Councillor Rathmell of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53 - 58:

"Council notes the motion which calls upon the Executive for an immediate moratorium on any further sales or leases of Middlesbrough Council assets, until such time the council has systems and procedures in place that are acceptable to Ernst & Young."

On a vote being taken, the motion was declared **LOST**.

16/59 **NOTICE OF MOTION 123 - CALL FOR RESIGNATION**

Consideration was given to the following motion, moved by Councillor Lawton and seconded by Councillor Rathmell of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53 - 58:

"I move that Mayor Dave Budd resign immediately".

On a vote being taken, the motion was declared **LOST**.

16/60 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

The details of the specific questions were included at Agenda Item 16.

1/16 - Question from Councillor Lawton to the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport regarding Captain Cook Birthplace Museum.

The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport confirmed that it was Middlesbrough Council who were investing the money as they were custodians of the funding and they were drawing up the design schemes. The funding had been used as follows:-

£100k for improvements to the building with an extra £50k as a contingency fund to ensure the works were carried out; £200k for display cases, equipment installation and procurement; £30k for natural science collections; £80k for voyage and education collections; £27k for technical, archival and artistic works and £5k for storage and archival facilities,

The Executive Member stressed that the above figures were approximate. The aim was to make the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum a museum of city regional significance.

2/16 - Question from Councillor Lawton to the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Regeneration regarding registered companies in Tees Valley

In the absence of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Regeneration, the Chair read out the following response:-

Middlesbrough Council has secured significant investment in the town over the last 2 years (see the Deputy Mayor's attached report of some of the higher profile achievements we have helped secure). With multi million pound investment from both private and public sector this has led to an important transformation, enabling the regeneration and supporting business growth and expansion. This has provided a wide range of job opportunities for residents and improved the image of the area.

Between May 2015 and May 2016, Companies House estimate that the number of businesses registered in Middlesbrough grew by 538 (14.3%), Stockton was up 355, Darlington 296, Hartlepool 213 and Redcar & Cleveland 81.

The total number of new businesses in the town in this period was 981 registrations, although there were 443 de-registrations during the period. With further premium brands moving into the town centre such as Valerie Patisserie, Flannels, The Disney Store, as well as two new restaurant chains secured for empty units along Albert Road, this highlights the confidence and forecast demand in Middlesbrough by the retail, leisure and hospitality sector.

With further developments proposed, Middlesbrough remains an attractive proposition to ongoing major investment and regeneration. Middlesbrough Council's business rates are growing; which demonstrates an overall positive direction with regard to economic growth in the town. The estimated business rates receivable for 2016/2017 is £43.4 million. This is an increase of 2.4% on 2015/2016. I am sure the Councillor will agree with me that these figures demonstrate that entrepreneurship and growth is thriving in the town under this Council. This town is open for business despite the efforts by some to talk it down.

3/16 - Question from Councillor Lawton to the Executive Member for Communities and Public Health re men's health in Middlesbrough.

The Executive Member for Communities and Public Health advised that in terms of engagement, developing new insight, realising men's health assets that already existed and connecting up services; a comprehensive view had been taken in respect of the challenges with men's health e.g. men die younger as they are less likely to go to a doctors and as a

consequence diseases were not detected early.

The Executive Member advised that his report had outlined the approach in developing a Men's Health Plan which was due to be launched in 2017.

4/16 - Question from Councillor Lawton to the Mayor re external legal advice over the sale of the TAD Centre

The Mayor confirmed that the legal advice received in respect of the TAD Centre was internal legal advice.

5/16 - Question from Councillor Lawton to the Mayor re sale of the Cleveland Craft Centre

The Mayor confirmed that the Council had received £50k so far. The property was currently exempt from business rates whilst renovations were taking place but it would be considered in the longer term once the renovations were complete.

6/16 - Question from Councillor Rathmell to the Mayor re sale of Craft Centre

The Mayor advised that the 150 year lease was sold for £50k as the £110k bid received was not legitimate as it did not propose a use that was in the best interests of the town. As a consequence a second round of bidding was opened. The request to reduce the rateable value did not come from Middlesbrough Council. It was the Valuation Office that reduced the £7k rates to zero because no rates were payable whilst the building was being renovated. The Valuation Office would make a decision with regard to the new rateable value once the building was brought back into use.

The member commented that the building was currently on the market for rental at a value of £42k per annum. He queried whether the renovations to the building were completed. The Mayor advised that he did not have that information.

7/16 - Question from Councillor Rathmell to the Mayor regarding the valuation of Acklam Hall

The Mayor advised that the valuation of Acklam Hall had been carried out by a suitably qualified person but it was not a RICS Valuation. The valuation was obtained for the purpose of the Statement of Accounts. Councils were not required under Section 123 to obtain an independent valuation; an assessment of market value could be carried out in-house. Councils had a General Disposal Consent from the Secretary of State where a disposal asset was under value in certain circumstances for the promotion of social and economic wellbeing.

The member queried why state aid was not considered in respect of the Acklam Hall disposal. The Mayor advised that he could not confirm why state aid was not considered.

8/16 - Question from Councillor Rathmell to the Mayor regarding issue of fraud

The Mayor advised that the newspaper reports indicated that there were other defendants involved in the case referred to by the member. It was a different scenario to that of the sale of land where a number of people would be required to sign for the transaction.

9/16 - Question from Councillor Rathmell to the Mayor regarding investment in TAD Centre

The Mayor advised that the purchaser estimated that £800k would be required to be invested in the TAD Centre to improve it. The report referred to in the Scrutiny minutes was from the Executive Sub Committee for Property which stated that £300k would be needed to improve the Centre to make it useable.

10 /16 - Question from Councillor Rathmell to the Mayor re further investigations into sale of the TAD Centre, Acklam Hall and Cleveland Craft Centre.

The Mayor advised that as far as he was aware there were no further investigations underway however he was aware that a further complaint had been submitted.

16/61 **REPRESENTATIONS - PARLIAMENTARY WARD BOUNDARIES PROPOSALS**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which sought approval from Council for the representations attached at Appendix B to the report, to be submitted to the Boundary Commission for England in respect of the proposals for changes to Parliamentary constituency boundaries for England in 2018.

ORDERED that the representations attached at Appendix B, in respect of the proposals for changes to Parliamentary constituency boundaries for England in 2018 be supported and that the submission be submitted to the Boundary Commission for England.

16/62 **ADOPTION OF MARTON WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented a report of the Director of Economic Development and Communities, the purpose of which was to seek the adoption of the Marton West Neighbourhood Plan.

If adopted, the Marton West Neighbourhood Plan would form part of the Council's Development Plan and become a 'material consideration' in the determination of planning applications within the designated Marton West Neighbourhood Area.

The Marton West Neighbourhood Plan had been the subject of a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum where there had been overwhelming support for its adoption.

ORDERED that the Marton West Neighbourhood Plan be adopted to form part of the Council's Development Plan, and become a 'material consideration' in the determination of planning applications within the designated Marton West Neighbourhood Area.

16/63 **REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which was to seek the Council's agreement to the revised Constitution.

The Monitoring Officer had a duty to review the Council's Constitution annually. The revised Constitution had been submitted to the Constitution and Members' Development Committee on 11 November 2016 for consideration.

Changes to the Constitution included the following:

- The Financial and Contract Procedure Rules (Standing Orders) and the Scheme of Delegation were now included as separate but interconnected documents to the Constitution;
- Revision of Council Procedure Rules, provisions of the Scheme of Delegation, the Members Code of Conduct and the protocol on Member/Officer Relations;
- Removal of the requirement for officers to notify their line manager of their membership of the Freemasons.

A Beginners Guide to the Constitution had also been produced which would allow for easier navigation of the main constitutional document.

The Monitoring Officer requested approval for authority to exclude from Key Decisions, decisions, where the disposal of land attracted more than the previously envisaged market value, by a margin of more than £150k.

ORDERED as follows:

1. That the revised Constitution be approved, with effect from 1 December 2016.

2. That authorisation be given to exclude from Key Decisions, decisions, where the disposal of land attracted more than the previously envisaged market value, by a margin of more than £150k.

16/64 **TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY - MAYORAL GOVERNANCE**

The Mayor presented a report submitted by the Strategic Director of Finance, Governance and Support in respect of the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) - Mayoral Governance, for information only, following a decision made at Executive on 15 November and a Members Seminar held on 7 November 2016.

On 15 November 2016, Executive approved the TVCA (Constitution) Order 2016. Since the Executive report had been published, Stockton had approved the order and Darlington, Hartlepool and Redcar were looking to consider the order in week commencing 21 November. The TVCA would consider the decision in due course.

The Mayor highlighted Paragraph 21 on page 4 of the report which stated that Government guidance was that being a Mayoral Combined Authority with a devolution deal would mean that the Combined Authority would have an advantage in securing Local Growth Fund money in round 3. An ambitious bid had been submitted and the announcement on the outcome of the bid was due as part of the Government's Spending Review in November 2016.

ORDERED that the report in respect of TVCA - Mayoral Governance be noted.

16/65 **POLITICAL BALANCE AND ALLOCATIONS**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report, the purpose of which was to recommend the revised allocation of places on committees and sub-committees for 2016 in accordance with the current political balance of the Council.

Members were advised that the report presented to the Annual General meeting of the Council detailed the political balance of the authority as at May 2016. Since that time, there had been a change in group membership (including a by-election) and the political balance of the Council therefore needed to be revised.

Details of the revised political balance and the changes to the seats on committees was included at paragraph 3 of the report.

As a result of the change to the political balance, unallocated places were available on the following committees;

Licensing Committee;
Staff Appeals Committee; and
Teesside Pension Fund and Investment Panel.

Councillor Lawton had self-nominated himself for the vacancies on the above committees. As no further nominations were received, it was agreed that Councillor Lawton be appointed to each of the above committees.

It was also noted that following the resignation of Councillor Shan, Council ratification was required for the appointment of a Vice-Chair to the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee (a role previously held by Councillor Shan). Following the resignation of Councillor Shan, in accordance with the authority delegated to the Monitoring Officer, Councillor D Rooney was appointed to the vacant seat on Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee and acted as Vice-Chair *pro tem* in the absence of a permanent Vice-Chair.

Formal nominations for the role of Vice-Chair were sought. Councillor D Rooney was nominated and seconded as Vice-Chair of Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee. As there were no further nominations, Councillor Rooney was appointed as Vice-Chair of Corporate

Affairs and Audit Committee.

ORDERED as follows:

1. That the revised allocation of seats on committees, subject to the rules relating to political balance be approved as follows:

- Labour - 95 seats
- Conservative - 12 seats
- Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association - 12 seats
- Marton Independent Group - 6 seats
- Independents - 11 seats

2. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to fill the unallocated seats as indicated in paragraph 6 and make any necessary further adjustments to remove or replace members where directed by the relevant group or member.

3. That Councillor T Lawton be appointed to the vacant seats on the following Committees:

- Licensing Committee;
- Staff Appeals Committee; and
- Teesside Pension Fund and Investment Panel.

4. That Councillor D Rooney be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee.